

## Soldiers Clean Graffiti, Instill Community Pride

By Spc. Jan Critchfield

122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Graffiti removal has become a focus for the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team. This is one part of the

coalition's campaign to make Baghdad a better place to live said Maj. Robert Cain, 3BCT plans and information operations officer.

"What we encourage all of our patrols to do is to identify

any infrastructure problems and ... to identify how widespread graffiti is in our area," Cain said.

"We [also] wanted to identify the message that was being portrayed ... and whether or

not it was anti-coalition, defeating our efforts [to encourage] the local populace to acknowledge all the efforts we're putting in to rebuild this country," Cain said.

If the graffiti is found to be an anti-coalition message, Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) soldiers accompanying 3rd BCT patrols paint over the writing, and often put posters up to inform the locals of how to report criminal activities such as vandalism, Cain said.

"We try to incorporate ICDC into everything that we do," Cain said. "And not only ICDC, but the Iraqi Police, local leaders and the individuals in the community. It shows that the local populace is not happy with the graffiti."

Anti-coalition graffiti shows that there is a criminal presence in the 3BCT area of operations and gives the 3BCT an idea of where to focus their efforts in making contact with locals and gauging their feelings on local criminal and terrorist activities, Cain said.

The 3BCT is also planning



By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

**An Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldier paints over an anti-coalition message marring a Baghdad residence. A new method of covering graffiti is being developed using stencils and rollers to make the result more attractive. There are even efforts to paint entire walls in various neighborhoods in an effort to beautify the area and instill pride in the local populace.**

## 'Beast' Platoon Helps Abu Ghraib Detainees Make it Home

By Spc. Andy Miller

122nd MPAD

AL SAIDIYAH, Baghdad, Iraq — Hundreds of Iraqi prisoners were released from Abu Ghraib prison as part of a coalition planned mass release on May 21. The 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, escorted

some of the released prisoners back to their homes safely.

Most of the former prisoners were released back to areas where they were originally picked up. Several busloads of released prisoners were greeted by their family and friends at Thunder Forward Operating Base (FOB).

Escort missions are not

unusual for the 3rd (Beast) platoon. They do them all the time, but this was a different kind of mission than they were used to.

"Usually when we do escort missions, it will be an escort from inside the FOB going out, and we'll escort as the security element," said Lt. Daniel Stockton, platoon leader

for the Beast platoon. "This time we were taking an escort that was way outside of our [area of operations], and bringing them in."

The platoon met the busloads of prisoners in Abu Ghraib, near the prison. When they reached the meeting area, the platoon was met not only

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## 3BCT Helps Renew Quality of Life

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on painting entire walls in several neighborhoods as a type of anti-graffiti campaign to instill neighborhood pride in local residents of Baghdad and encourage them to paint over graffiti themselves.

"We are not only going to remove the graffiti, we are also

going to be increasing the quality of life," Cain said. "We're going to place street lamps and park benches."

If the people of Baghdad take pride in their neighborhoods, Cain said, the 3BCT is one step closer to removing the insurgents who are trying to create an unstable environment.



By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

**An Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldier washes an anti-coalition message written in chalk from the wall of a Baghdad residence. Such messages create an unstable environment in which insurgents can prosper, according to Maj. Robert Cain, information operations officer, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.**

Baghdad, Iraq		
Thursday	Friday	Saturday
High: 100 Low: 73	High: 102 Low: 75	High: 104 Low: 78

Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

## Iraqi Word of the Day

Thursday al-kha-mees



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

**Lt. Daniel Stockton, 3rd platoon leader for 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division prepares to escort busloads of released prisoners from the Abu Ghraib Prison in Baghdad. After final determinations are made on which prisoners can be released, First Team Soldiers will ensure the former prisoners are escorted to their homes.**

## 3rd Platoon Ensures Safe Arrival

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by the buses, but also by a large crowd of civilians. The civilians had stopped traffic in the road and were mobbing around the buses.

"I thought it was going to turn into a riot," Stockton said. "We had to do something to get [the buses] moving before it got completely out of hand; because it was fixing to get out of hand."

After stopping at Thunder FOB, the rest of the detainees were taken to a central location in Al Saidiyah. From there they were able to get rides to their homes. An Iraqi Police element helped the Beast Platoon provide security at the location. Taking security precautions to

ensure the released prisoners make it home safely is essential, according to Capt. William McPherson, the officer in charge of the brigade detention facility at Camp Ferrin-Huggins.

"You've got a mass detainee release, and you've got enemy out there trying to run their own information operations campaign," McPherson said.

A division release board at the coalition joint task force level will determine which prisoners are eligible for release. After final determinations are made, First Team elements will ensure former prisoners are safely escorted home, McPherson said.

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## Memorial Honors Dead, Survivors

► From *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.-Evelyn Soo decided Monday night to let go of a secret she didn't want anymore. So she took out a notecard, wrote a few words and taped a small piece of green metal, a broken Lbracket, to the card.

The bracket is a piece of American Airlines' Flight 1420. It fell off the seat in front of her, 14A, and landed in her purse during the plane's June 1, 1999, crash.

"For the longest time, I didn't know what to do with it," the Little Rock retiree said. "I had put it in a box with all of my 1420 stuff, and I'd get it out and look at it for awhile, then put it back in. Monday night, I decided I didn't need it any more, and I knew someone who did."

Lisa Rowe, 43, a Cabot housewife, was in 14A when Flight 1420 overran a Little Rock runway in the midnight crash that killed 11 people. She had tried to talk the airline into letting her have the seat. American, which destroyed the plane four months ago, had declined.

When Rowe opened the notecard and saw the bracket, all she could do was cry.

Being whole is what Tuesday's dedication of a memorial honoring the dead and the heroics of that night was all about.

About 150 people, the majority of them survivors, attended the ceremony at the Aerospace Education Center across the street from Little Rock National Airport, Adams Field.

The memorial was origi-

nally planned for a site adjacent to the airport terminal. It was moved across the street because of increased security after 9/11. The night of the crash, family members gathered at the aerospace center to await news.

Alaska Army National Guard Col. Jeff Arnold, a survivor who helped save the copilot, said the best thing to come out of the crash was the development of a Compassionate Assistance Relief Effort, or CARE, card, to be handed to passengers following a crash. The card, now being used by Alaska, Delta and Jet-Blue airlines, gives passengers a contact number and lists some of the services that they can expect, such as help with transportation, lodging and clothing.

Cara Ashcraft, one of the two Ashcraft sisters who at the ages of 10 and 13 were traveling alone to visit their grandparents, returned for the dedication. Cara, now 15, plans to spend the summer visiting her grandparents in White Hall and taking driver's education. Her sister, Erin, graduated Monday night from Marcus High School in Flower Mound, Texas.

"She had a lot of stuff she didn't want to miss, you know, those ceremony things you do with your friends after graduation," her father, Rick Ashcraft, said. "We had to leave after they announced the As on the graduation just to make it here."

Another survivor missing from the service, Adam Salmans of Cabot, will have to wait for the video his sister shot for him. He is in an Army Airborne Infantry unit, serving in Afghanistan.



Temple Daily Telegram

**Children from Temple, Texas cool off on a water slide set up for them Tuesday.**



### HUMAN ERROR



The most common human errors related to accidents and injuries are:

- o Lack of self-discipline
- o Failure to enforce standards
- o Inadequate training

**YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN ACCIDENT PREVENTION**

## Fort Hood Community Life NCO Keeping Kids on the Right Track

► From *Fort Hood Sentinel*

"On your mark, get set, go!" exclaims a slender man with dark sunglasses to an energetic group of athletes. He blows a whistle that echoes throughout the air; bringing an explosion of small feet as a group of children races each other, pounding their feet into the rubbery surface of the school track.

The man is Master Sgt. Derwin Graham Sr., Community Life noncommissioned officer in charge.

Graham is a volunteer coach for the Killeen Blaze

Track Club, an independent, non-profit youth organization specializing in the sport of track and field that trains local children ages 6 to 18.

Last year, William Collins Sr. founded the Killeen Blaze Track Club as a small organization that provided a positive outlet, specifically to children of military parents. The team originally began with just Collins' daughter and nine of her friends.

Collins said he knew of Graham's experience and knew he would be an asset to their team, particularly since he was

eager to expand the club so Collins offered Graham the position of head coach.

Track has become a family affair for Graham. He and his wife, Sgt. 1st Class Sheirice Graham, have two children, D'Anthony, 8, and Derwin Jr., 10. Both of the children are on the Killeen Blaze Track Club, and Graham's wife acts as both the treasurer and secretary for the team.

But Graham does have the unique challenge of balancing his Army career with his responsibilities of being a volunteer coach, as do all the coaches of the Killeen Blaze Track Club. Graham said he and all the coaches of the team are excited to help guide local children in their training, but when duty calls, the mission always comes first.

In six years, when his 20-year commitment to the Army is complete, Graham said he plans on teaching and continuing to coach track and field because of the personal satisfaction he gets from mentoring young children.



Fort Hood Sentinel

**Children of the Killeen Blaze Track Club practice sprints with head coach Derwin Graham at Killeen's Ellison High School May 19.**

## Today in History

### June 3

► From [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com)

**1800** John Adams, the second president of the U.S., becomes the first president to reside in Washington, D.C.

**1940** The German air force bombs Paris

**1965** Maj. Edward White II becomes the first American astronaut to walk in space

**1989** The Chinese government authorizes its soldiers and tanks to reclaim Beijing's Tiananmen Square at all costs

## Today in Cav

### History

### June 3

**1997 - Operation INTRINSIC ACTION 97-03 - Kuwait initiated.**



**MLB**

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

Texas 5  
Cleveland 3

Oakland 3  
Chicago 2

Detroit 2  
Kansas City 0

New York 6  
Baltimore 5

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati 3  
Florida 1

Houston 5  
Chicago 1

San Diego 2  
Colorado 1

New York 5  
Philadelphia 3

St. Louis 5  
Pittsburgh 3

## TV GUIDE

	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
<b>6 p.m.</b>	Yu-Gi-Oh!/ Jackie Chan Adventures	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	French Open Tennis - Women's Semifinals 4 p.m.	Masterpiece Theater 5 p.m.
<b>7 p.m.</b>	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 7:30 p.m.		The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
<b>8 p.m.</b>	ESPNews/ Headline News	Victor/Victoria		The Simpsons/ Happy Days
<b>9 p.m.</b>	Everybody Loves Raymond/ Scrubs 9:25 p.m./ Reel Time 9:50 p.m.		SportsCenter	One Tree Hill
<b>10 p.m.</b>	The Bachelor	Frankenstein 10:30 p.m.	Aussie Rules Football Highlights	The West Wing